

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A photothermographic material, comprising:

a support;

an image forming layer disposed on the support and containing a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent, and a binder; and
a silver-saving agent,

wherein silver iodide is contained in the photosensitive silver halide in an amount of 40 to 100 mol%, [[and]]

wherein an image gradation of an image obtained by heat development is 2 to 4, the image gradation being expressed as the gradient between optical densities 2.0 and 0.25 of a characteristic curve as represented by the following equation:

$\text{Gamma} = (\text{Optical density 2.0} - \text{Optical density 0.25}) / (\log (\text{Fog density} + \text{Exposure amount providing an optical density of 2.0}) - \log (\text{Fog density} + \text{Exposure amount providing an optical density of 0.25})), \text{ and}$

wherein the photothermographic material is capable of being exposed by a laser light source having a wavelength of 350 nm to 450 nm.

2. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the image forming layer has a multilayered structure comprising at least a first image forming layer

and a second image forming layer, and at least the first image forming layer contains the silver-saving agent, and the second image forming layer does not contain the silver-saving agent.

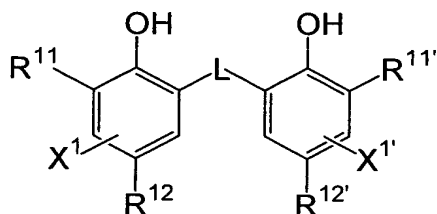
3. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 2, wherein the first image forming layer containing the silver-saving agent is disposed closer to the support, and the second image forming layer not containing the silver-saving agent is disposed more distant from the support.

4. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 2, wherein the first image forming layer containing the silver-saving agent is disposed more distant from the support, and the second image forming layer not containing the silver-saving agent is disposed closer to the support.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the reducing agent contains a compound represented by the following formula (R):

Formula (R)



wherein R^{11} and $R^{11'}$ each independently represent an alkyl group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms, in which a carbon atom bonding with a benzene ring is secondary or tertiary; R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a group capable of being substituted on the benzene ring; L represents -S- or -CHR¹³, in which R^{13} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and X^1 and $X^{1'}$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a group capable of being substituted on the benzene ring.

7. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, further comprising a development accelerator.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The photothermographic material of ~~claim 8~~ claim 1, wherein the laser light source is a blue semiconductor laser.

11. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein a total amount of coated silver including the photosensitive silver halide and the non-photosensitive organic silver salt is 0.1 to 3.0 g/m².

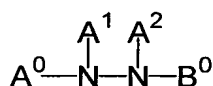
12. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the

reducing agent is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 3.0 g/m².

13. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is contained in the image forming layer in an amount of 5 to 50 mol% per mole of silver on a surface having the image forming layer.

14. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is a hydrazine derivative compound represented by the following formula (V):

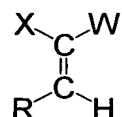
Formula (V)



wherein A⁰ represents an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, or -G⁰-D⁰, each of which may have a substituent; B⁰ represents a blocking group; one of A¹ and A² represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, a sulfonyl group, or an oxalyl group; G⁰ represents -CO-, -COCO-, -CS-, -C(=NG¹D¹)-, -SO-, -SO₂-, or -P(O)(G¹D¹)-, in which G¹ represents a single bond, -O-, -S-, or -N(D¹)-, and D¹ represents an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, or a hydrogen atom; and D⁰ represents one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, and an arylthio group.

15. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is a vinyl compound represented by the following formula (VI):

Formula (VI)

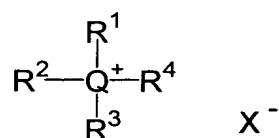


wherein X represents an electron attracting group; W represents one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a halogen atom, an acyl group, a thioacyl group, an oxalyl group, an oxyoxalyl group, a thiooxalyl group, an oxamoyl group, an oxycarbonyl group, a thiocarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a sulfonyl group, a sulfinyl group, an oxysulfinyl group, a thiosulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, an oxysulfinyl group, a thiosulfinyl group, a sulfinamoyl group, a phosphoryl group, a nitro group, an imino group, an N-carbonylimino group, an N-sulfinylimino group, a dicyanoethylene group, an ammonium group, a sulfonium group, a phosphonium group, a pyrylium group, and an immonium group; R represents one selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an alkenyloxy group, an acyloxy group, an alkoxycarbonyloxy group, an aminocarbonyloxy group, a mercapto group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, a heterocyclic thio group, an alkenylthio group, an acylthio group, an alkoxycarbonylthio group, an aminocarbonylthio group, an organic or inorganic salt of a hydroxyl group or a mercapto group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a cyclic amino group, an acylamino group, an oxycarbonylamino group, a

heterocyclic group, a ureido group, and a sulfonamido group; and X and W, and X and R may bond with each other to form a ring.

16. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is a quaternary onium compound represented by the following formula (VII):

Formula (VII)



wherein Q represents a nitrogen atom or a phosphorus atom; R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 each independently represent one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, and an amino group; X^- represents an anion; and R^1 to R^4 may bond with each other to form a ring.

17. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is contained in the image forming layer or a layer adjacent to the image forming layer in an amount of 10^{-5} to 1 mol per mole of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

18. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material of claim 1,

wherein the silver iodide is contained in the photosensitive silver halide in an amount of 80 to 100 mol%.

19. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material of claim 1,
wherein the silver iodide is contained in the photosensitive silver halide in an amount of 90 to 100 mol%.